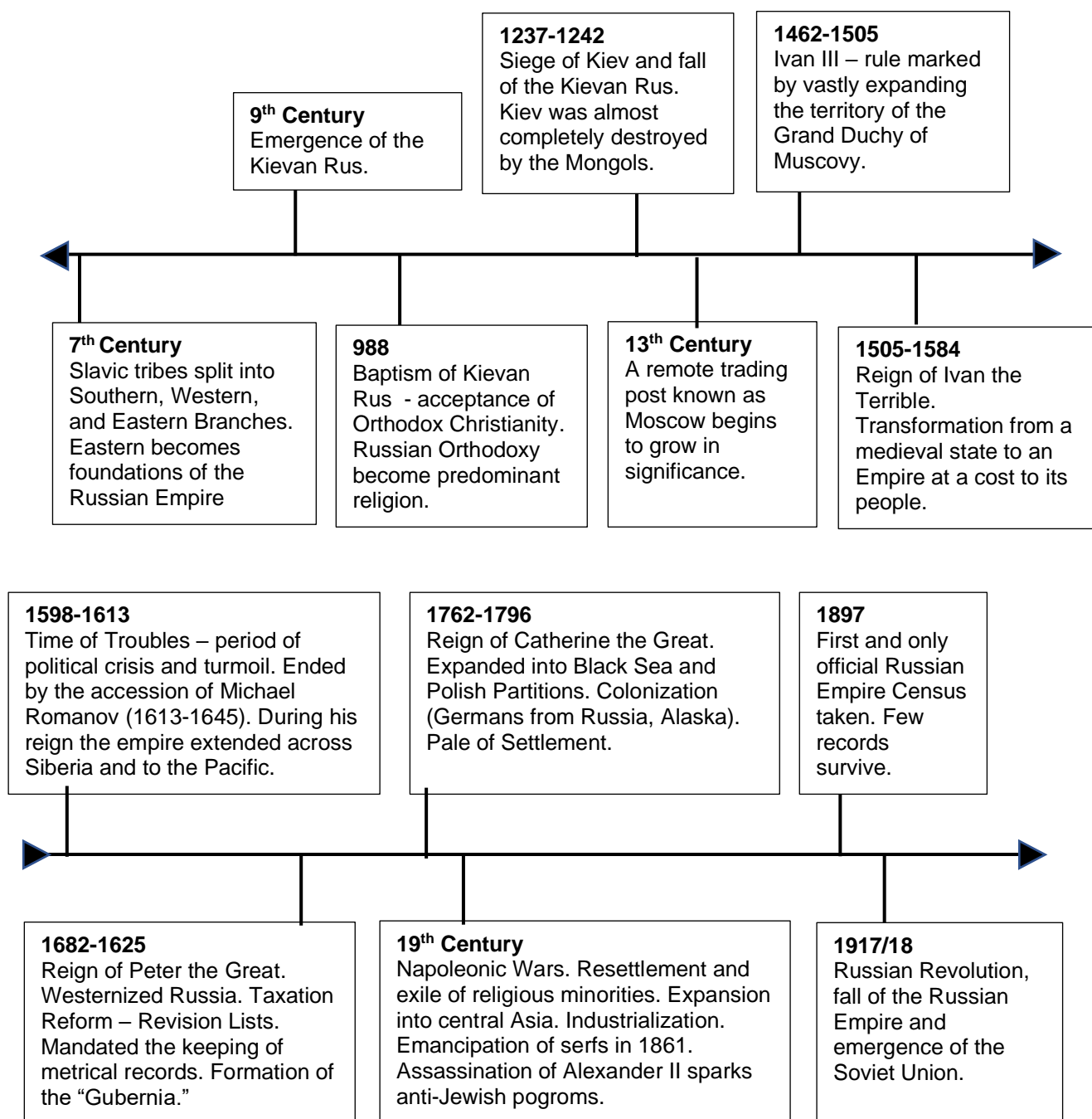


Russian Historical Geography and Introduction to Basic Record Types





INTRODUCTION TO BASIC RECORD TYPES

Revision Lists

- An enumeration of the taxable population.
- Similar to a census record – all members of the household listed.
- Came from Peter the Great's taxation reform in 1719.
- Ten revisions taken sporadically between 1719 and 1858.

1. 1719-1724	6. 1811 (incomplete)
2. 1743-1747	7. 1815-1817/1826
3. 1761-1767	8. 1833-1835
4. 1781-1782	9. 1850-1851
5. 1794-1795/1808	10. 1857-1858/1859

To learn about revision lists read: "The Imperial Russian Revision Lists of the 18th and 19th Century," by Joseph B. Everett: scholarsarchive.byu.edu/facpub/4308/

For help reading revision list records, see:

familysearch.org/en/wiki/img_auth.php/2/2c/Russian_Revision_Lists_-_Instruction_E_Vance_2020-270229_Jan_2020_JMR_.pdf

Metrical Books

- Also known as church records, vital records of birth/baptism, marriage, burial/death.
- Various religions were mandated to begin keeping metrical records at different points:
 - Russian Orthodox – 1722
 - Roman Catholic – 1826
 - Islamic – 1828/1832
 - Lutheran – 1832
 - Jewish – 1835

- Old Believer – 1874
- Baptist – 1879

1897 Census

- Russian Empire's first and last official census.
- Created for statistical purposes.
- Census sheets were to be destroyed after data was gathered. Very few records survive.

For help reading the 1897 Census, see: familysearch.org/en/wiki/img_auth.php/6/6b/1897census-Instructions.pdf

For an inventory of surviving 1897 census records, see: arch1897.histcensus.asu.ru/

Civil Registration

- Responsibility of keeping of vital records shifts from religious organizations to the state following the Russian Revolution.
- Many civil registration records are still kept in ZAGS (civil registration) offices. Early records may have been transferred to regional archives.

RUSSIAN EMPIRE JURISDICTIONS

The Russian Empire was divided up into states/provinces called guberni (singular – gubernia). Each gubernia was further sub-divided into counties/districts called uyezdi (singular – uyezd).

Jurisdiction	Western Russia	Eastern Russia
State/Province	Gubernia (губерния)	Oblast (область)
County/District	Uyezd (уезд)	Okrug (округ)
Commune	Volost (волость)	

There are many different words to signify a location. Below are some of the most common.

Russian	English
деревня (дер.)	village
село	village with a church
приход	parish
поселения	village/settlement
поселок	village/settlement
местечко	small village/town (often used when referring to a shtetl or Jewish community)
место	place
город (г.)	city
фольварк	manor farm
колония	colony
сообщество	community (often used when referring to a shtetl or Jewish community)